

SPY'S LOVER PLUNGES TO HER DEATH

By RACHEL FLICK
and LEO STANDORA
THE lover of Soviet double-defector Vitaly Yurchenko mysteriously plunged to her death from a 27th floor apartment in Toronto, it was reported last night.

The woman, tentatively identified as Svetlana Dedkova, was the wife of a high-ranking Soviet trade official based in Toronto, and was having a love affair with Yurchenko, according to the ABC-TV network.

The Toronto-based Global TV Network reported yesterday that Canadian authorities were investigating a possible connection between the woman's death and the return home of Yurchenko.

But the Canadian Security Intelligence Service declined to comment on the report.

According to sources, Svetlana jilted the obsessed Yurchenko and it was then that he decided to pull the sensational double defection.

But last night, news of her mystery death plunge threw the entire case into further chaos, triggering speculation about her real role in the affair — or even if in fact she had jilted him.

Svetlana's mangled body was found in the street in the Toronto suburb of Etobicoke.

A stool was found on the balcony from which she fell.

Sources told The Post a suicide note was found, but Canadian authorities

refused to say whether her death was a suicide, accidental or suspicious.

Yurchenko flew out of the U.S. last night toward the Soviet Union, before the death of his former mistress became public.

Canada's External Affairs Ministry confirmed yesterday that the wife of an unnamed Soviet working for Omnitrade, a Soviet trade office in Toronto, had died in a fall from the 27th floor of a high-rise in the Toronto suburb of Etobicoke.

The woman's body was too mangled for immediate identification, the ministry said.

Her dental records were being flown from the Soviet embassy in Ottawa.

Intelligence sources in Washington confirmed that the trade official's wife had been carrying on an affair for about five years with Yurchenko.

The Global TV Network reported that the dead woman's husband was a close personal friend of Yurchenko.

Sources told The Post that Yurchenko communicated with the Soviets secretly while in the custody of the CIA.

"Some heads are going to roll at the CIA over this," one intelligence source told The Post's Niles Latham.

The source would not discuss whether the dead woman was Yurchenko's contact with the Kremlin while he was in CIA custody.

However, the CIA did allow Yurchenko to take a secret flight to Canada in October for a lovers' rendezvous with her, it was reported.

Global Network and ABC News also said that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service — Canada's version of the FBI — had found reason to believe that the dead Soviet woman had been Yurchenko's mistress.

Toronto police sources said the dead woman left behind a note, but Inspector Ronald Prior declined to confirm this.

In the U.S., National Public Radio and ABC News, quoting "administration sources" and "authorities," reported on Yurchenko's broken love affair.

Yurchenko was under close CIA scrutiny and it would have been unusual

for him to be allowed to fly to Canada to meet his mistress, especially since she was linked to the Soviet government.

But, as veteran ABC correspondent John Scali reported on the meeting: "At that time, Yurchenko met face to face with the wife of the Soviet diplomat who supposedly loved him and who he thought would defect with him."

"She refused and Yurchenko returned to Washington," Scali reported.

One source said Yurchenko was allowed to meet his heartthrob to persuade her to join him in the U.S.

"She liked him as a spy, but not as a defector," the source explained, and

The Canada intelligence agency declined to discuss whether the dead woman may have been a CIA counter spy, planted as the wife of a Soviet official.

Yurchenko, described as the No. 5 man in the KGB, left on a special Aeroflot flight from Washington's Dulles Airport to Moscow where a hero's welcome — or a traitor's punishment awaits him.

President Reagan said yesterday that he suspects the incident was part of a "deliberate ploy" to make the U.S. look bad before the upcoming summit in Geneva.

Yurchenko kept the mystery alive by insisting to the end that he never really defected in the first place but instead was kidnaped, drugged and tortured by

The balding, beefy masterspy wore a slight grin as he arrived at Dulles International airport near Washington with about 20 other Soviets.

He seemed in good spirits and walked briskly toward the Soviet Il-lyushin 62 jetliner waiting for him, pausing briefly to wave to scores of reporters.

The plane left shortly before 5 p.m., taking Yurchenko and his secret with him.

Yurchenko returned to the U.S. "a little depressed."

It was after the Canadian visit that Yurchenko first became homesick and had second thoughts about his defection.

Yurchenko has a wife and a 16-year-old son in the Soviet Union.

But President Reagan isn't buying the love story.

He said the apparent defection of Yurchenko, a Soviet seaman and a soldier were part of a Kremlin scheme but "there's no way we can prove or disprove it."